Exports from SEZs

*399. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the exports from the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the year 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) the share of the exports from SEZs in the overall exports; and

(c) the details of the proposals to expand SEZ mechanisms to boost the manufacturing and exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH). (a) Exports from Special Economic Zones during 2002-03 and 2003-04 were of the order of Rs. 10056.62 crores and Rs. 14003.89 crores (provisional) respectively,

(b) The share of exports from SEZs in the country's overall exports during 2003-04 was about 5%.

(c) The Policy relating to SEZs is constantly reviewed in consultation with trade and industry so as to bring about improvements for facilitating exports. Some of the major incentives announced during 2003-04 include 100% income tax exemption for 3 consecutive years, 50% exemption for the next 2 years of Off-shore Banking Units set up in SEZs, Income Tax exemption to the extent of 50% of ploughed back profits to SEZ units, treating supplies from the Domestic Tariff Area to SEZ units at par with physical exports. Further, approvals have been given for setting up of 26 SEZs, of which one Zone has since commenced exports while 4 zones are ready for operation. Other approved SEZs are at various stages of implementation.

Poverty ratio

*400. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any significant decline in the poverty ratio during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and